

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 EB-07 DODE-00 /070 W

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R 121200Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6316

INFO US MISSION NATO 3161

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT

USLOSACLA

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: U.S. POSITION ON INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP
(IEPG) ACTIVITY

REF: STATE 46987, DTG 272005Z FEB 76

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1. ACCORDING MFA NATO OFFICE, GOI PROPOSING MEETING IEPG

FOR 9 APRIL AT EXPERT LEVEL. ITALIAN EXPECTATION IS THAT ELEVEN COUNTRIES WILL TABLE PROPOSALS OF TECHNICAL INDUSTRIAL (AND THEY ARE HOPEFUL "NON-PHILOSOPHICAL") NATURE IN PREPARATION FOR MORE HIGH-POWERED MEETING LATER THIS SPRING.

2. EMBOFF USED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POINTS ON U.S. POSITION CONTAINED REFTEL. INTERLOCUTOR RESPONDED THAT MFA HAD EXPECTATION IEPG EFFORTS COULD LEAD TO SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS (PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE FRENCH INVOLVEMENT), BUT HAD SOME OF SAME RESERVATIONS EVIDENT IN OUR EXPOSITION. HE AGREED THAT MILITARY UTILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS WERE IMPORTANT CRITERIA BUT ADDED (THE BY NOW WELL-TUNED) COUNTER-POINT OF ECONOMIC (READ EMPLOYMENT) AND POLITICAL (READ EUROPEAN UNITY) CONSIDERATIONS. NONETHELESS THE MFA WAS ANXIOUS THAT THIS NEW FORUM NOT BECOME IN ANY WAY A MECHANISM OF "DIVISION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC". VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ALLIANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME04058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0009
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760366/aaaacgeb.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 46987
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 FEB 2004 by morefir>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. POSITION ON INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG) ACTIVITY
TAGS: MPOL, US, XG, NATO, IEPG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006